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To: COT Constitutional CIO Security Contacts; COT Cabinet CIO Security Contacts; CTC Members

Cc: COT Exchange Administrators; COT Security Alert Contacts; COT Security Contact COT-Support; COT Security Contact Pass; COT Security Contact Self-Support; COT Technical Contacts; SecurityContacts Group

Subject: Storm Worm Links in Valentine E-Cards

COT Security Alert

The FBI has issued a warning of Storm Worm Virus links in Valentine's Day e-cards. The spam e-mails direct the recipient to click on a link to retrieve the greeting card, and the malware then downloads to the user's device. The device then becomes infected and part of the Storm Worm botnet. A botnet is a network of compromised machines under the control of a single user. Botnets are typically set up to facilitate criminal activity such as spam e-mail, identity theft, denial of service attacks, and spreading malware to other machines on the Internet.

The Storm Worm virus has capitalized on various holidays in the last year by sending millions of e-mails advertising an e-card link within the text of the spam e-mail. Valentine's Day e-cards have been identified as one of the currently used ploys in spreading the bot. Users are advised to be wary of any e-mail received from an unknown sender and not to open unsolicited e-mail or click on any links they contain. If this is practiced consistently and continually it will greatly reduce the amount of spam received and the number of infections.

NOTICE: COT is providing this information so that you are aware of the latest security threats, vulnerabilities, software patches, etc. You should consult with your network administrator or other technical resources to ensure that the appropriate actions for these alerts are followed. If you are a network administrator and need additional information, please call the Help Desk at 502.564.7576.

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